



Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc.

1725 Caniff • Hamtramck, MI48212 • (313) 868-7663 • (313) 868-3948 fax

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Federal Communications
Commission 445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 12, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Please be advised that I am writing this letter on behalf of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity. We are a religious association of over three hundred churches in and around Southeastern Michigan. As part of our mission and purpose, we carefully study policy and practices which have impact on the constituents we serve.

Increasingly, our member churches and our association has become reliant on wireless phone and internet services to communicate with congregants. In fact, handheld and other electronic mail devices are a quick, fast and effective method of communicating emergency situations occurring within congregations. The internet has become a unique tool for promoting ministry efforts throughout the world. We have developed mission related affiliations in economically distressed countries. We are able to transport our worship services directly to these remote areas of the world through the use of expanded broadband technology. It is not lost on us that much of the broadband and other internet broad and podcast technology has been developed and brought to the market by private investment. Net neutrality regulations as proposed by the FCC will have a limiting effect on broadband expansion.

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While we are certainly clear that government regulation is appropriate in many instances, we have concluded that no such intervention is necessary in this area. We have found that even the smallest church budgets can accommodate the price of this great technology. Our great concern is that government rules and increased regulation will deter innovation, creativity, and affordability of this technology.

Again, we strongly urge you to reconsider your proposed net neutrality regulations. A more proper focus can and should be on fostering innovation, investment, and creating jobs.

Sincerely,

The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity

By: Attorney Bertram L. Marks D. Min.
Its: General Legal Counsel